UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 615
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News
Service

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending November 7, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 4--It's a 9 to 2 line-up on this week's vegetable supply, with the fair buys holding the edge over the best buys.

Eggplant and squash are the two outstanding players on the best-buy team, while warming up on the fair-buy team are snap beans, cabbage at a lower price, cauliflower, celery, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, mushrooms, and sweet potatoes.

There are several best-buy fruits this week to bolster up the cheering section -- namely California Newtown apples, all varieties of grapes, small Valencia oranges, and persimmons at a low price. All sizes of Valencia oranges are coming down in price in anticipation of the arrival of new-crop Navels on the market.

Grapefruit is a fair buy at quite reasonable prices, while avocados remain high.

(MORE)

This week's volume of meat is about the same as for last week, but demand is somewhat broader. Supplies of steer and heifer beef show a wider range of quality, with Commercial and Utility grades fairly plentiful. On cow beef, Canner and Cutter grades are being offered liberally. Fairly ample veal and calf carcasses are mostly of Utility to Top-Good grades. Lamb supplies are of Good and Choice grades and are clearing more readily, while a rather moderate supply of ewe mutton is moving mostly to country points. More fresh pork is available and in broader demand. Smoked skinned hams are very plentiful, but supplies of bacon are falling far below daily requirements. There isn't a great deal of change in prices from last week, except for a $1.00 downturn on steer beef and pork cuts and carcasses.

Butter prices are continuing their upward trend. Grade A(92 Score) is up 5 cents above last week at 80 cents per pound, while Grade B(90 Score) is 4 cents higher at 73 cents per pound. Some of the reasons behind this upward swing of prices include: lighter supplies because of the diversion of cream from butter to other products and the diversion of milk to wholemilk and away from butter, higher prices in Mid-Western markets, and an improved consumer demand.

Plentiful supplies of eggs contain more of the medium size than any other size, with the result that Grade "A" Mediums are priced 2 cents below last week at 56 to 57½ cents per dozen. All other grades and sizes are unchanged in price. Production is gaining and is far larger than a year ago, while demand is improving because of the lower trend of prices.

Very liberal offerings of almost all classes of poultry are resulting in lower prices and some stimulation in demand. This week's line-up of price changes is as follows: broilers are 1-cent-per-pound lower on both live and dressed weights; small fryers are 2 cents lower; colored fryers are down 1 cent; colored roasters are 1 cent lower on live weights and 2 cents lower on dressed weights; colored fowl is 1-cent-per-pound less alive; hen turkeys are 1 cent lower on live weights, and young tom turkeys are 2 cents lower.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending November 14, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 12---Prices are definitely higher on vegetables this week, and there are no outstandingly good buys. The local season is about over on many items.

Among the fair buys are snap and lima beans, cabbage (lower priced), celery, cucumbers, mushrooms, sweet potatoes, and higher priced eggplant, spinach, and squash.

Onions, peppers, potatoes, cauliflower, corn, lettuce, and tomatoes are all up in price, while artichokes, broccoli, and carrots remain high.

All apples are plentiful and a good buy -- especially the Watsonville Newtowns.

Table grapes -- including the Ribier, Malaga, and Emperor varieties -- are also a good buy, along with small Valencia oranges.

Quite a few new-crop Navel oranges are now on the market and are running heavy to large sizes, but are only a fair buy because they are not tops in quality.

Grapefruit from Arizona and the Imperial Valley is a fair buy, with the Imperial Valley fruit higher than the Arizona. Persimmons are also a fair buy.

(MORE)

Supplies of meat are fairly liberal and have been adequate this past week, except in the case of lamb. Some Choice and Prime beef and lamb from the Grand National Livestock Show is being shown. The week's beef slaughter is slightly heavier, but offerings of beef from out of the state are rather light. Quality on steer beef is of Commercial and Good grades, while cow beef carcasses are in liberal supply and mostly of Canner to Utility grades. Veal and calf carcasses are in fairly liberal supply, with calf offerings consisting of all four grades (Choice, Good, Commercial, Utility) and veal of Utility and Commercial grades. Both lamb and fresh pork are in broader demand. Supplies of pork are fairly liberal, but some orders for lamb have gone unfilled. For the most part, prices are unchanged, but skinned smoked hams are plentiful and priced $1.00 to $3.00 lower, and pork carcasses and cuts are down $1.00 to $2.00.

In reflection of a decline in local production and higher prices in Midwestern markets, San Francisco's butter prices are 1 to 2 cents per pound higher on the wholesale market. Grade A(92 Score) is up 2 cents at 82 cents per pound, while Grade B(90 Score) is 1-cent higher at 74 cents per pound.

Medium-sized eggs are a good buy at prices 2 cents per dozen below last week -- with Grade "A" at 54-55½ cents per dozen. Grade "B" Large eggs are 4 cents per dozen lower at 55 to 56½ cents, while Grade "A" Large and Small eggs are unchanged in price. Receipts are becoming heavier and are now 28 to 30 per cent larger than in 1946.

Poultry prices are not greatly changed from last week, but Leghorn broilers are in liberal supply and are down 1-cent-per-pound on live weights. Offerings of colored fryers and roasters are not as large, with the result that they are priced 1 to 2 cents higher per pound on both live and dressed weights. Prices on colored fowl are also 1-cent-per-pound lower on live and dressed weights. There is some improvement in the demand for young tom turkeys, while young hen turkeys are down 1-cent-per-pound alive. Generally, demand is moderate.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending November 21, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 18---Prices are higher on many vegetables again this week, but celery has dropped enough to become a good buy -- and that's good news for homemakers who are thinking about a menu for Thanksgiving.

Labeled as "fair buys" are cabbage, cauliflower at slightly lower prices, cucumbers (higher), eggplant (higher), spinach, squash (higher), and sweet potatoes.

Items that have gone up in price from last week include snap beans, broccoli, onions, and peppers, while carrots and lettuce remain high.

To be found in the scarce-and-high department are artichokes and peas.

Potential choices for the fruit bowl are the same as for last week. Apples are a good buy, particularly the Watsonville Newtowns, along with grapes, grapefruit, and small Valencia and Navel oranges. Navel oranges are becoming more and more plentiful as the new-crop shipments continue to come in.

Persimmons are still a fair buy.

(MORE)

This week's price pointer on meat is oscillating to both higher and lower ranges, while demand is fairly broad. For the most part, supplies are adequate and distribution is fairly even, except in the case of Canner, Cutter and Utility cow beef. Supplies of beef consist largely of Commercial to Choice steer beef, with several Prime carcasses from the Grand National Livestock Show. Cow beef is fairly liberal in supply. As for prices, steer and heifer beef is up $1.00; cow beef is $1.00 lower in some instances. Offerings of veal and calf carcasses are barely ample for their broad demand. Quality is mostly of Utility to Commercial grades. With lamb in broad demand, prices are $1.00 higher. On ewe mutton, prices are unchanged under a moderate demand. Very liberal supplies of fresh pork are in a little broader demand and are selling on a wider price range at a level $1.00 to $2.00 lower. Smoked hams and bacon are unchanged in price.

This week's butter picture is little changed from last week. Production is at a low level, while prices are higher in Mid-Western markets and Grade A(92 Score) is up 1-cent in San Francisco's wholesale market at 83 cents per pound. Local prices on Grade B(90 Score) remain unchanged at 74 cents per pound. Retail sales are on a downward trend and are only slightly above last year. Sales of margarine are at a relatively high level.

Large eggs are 2 cents lower, with Grade "A" Large quoted at 64-65½ cents per dozen and Grade "B" Large at 53-54½ cents. Production continues to show a steady gain. But as prices decline, consumption picks up.

Lighter offerings of poultry are in better demand, but prices are little changed from last week. The biggest change is on young hen and tom turkeys, which are selling 2 cents per pound higher on live weights. But there will be a large supply of turkeys available for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending November 28, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 25--- Cold, unfavorable weather is hastening the end of the season on vegetables in some producing areas, while prices continue to go up.

In comparison with prices on other vegetables, celery remains a good buy -- even though the price is up a little this week.

Grouped in the "fair buy" class are green onions, cabbage, cauliflower (higher), cucumbers, eggplant, spinach (higher), and sweet potatoes.

Beans are higher, as the result of a frost in the Coachella Valley. Other higher priced items include: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, carrots, onions, and squash.

In the luxury class are artichokes at a high price, peas, tomatoes, and the small supply of peppers left in the market.

California Newtown apples retain their place at the top of the list of best fruit buys. Grapes, grapefruit, small Valencia oranges, and large Navel oranges complete the best buys.

Persimmons are a fair buy.

Tangerines are beginning to appear in the market at a high price.

MORE

In anticipation of Thanksgiving, meat slaughter has been held to a minimum -- especially on beef and lamb. Hog slaughter, on the other hand, is larger. The supply of Good grade steer and heifer beef is relatively lighter than for the past sixty days. Veal and calf offerings are light and made up mostly of Commercial and Good grades. Supplies of fresh pork cuts continue very liberal. Colder weather has been an aid to demand, with the broad demand for lamb clearing coolers daily. Some prices are up; some are down. The price pointer tends to indicate prices $1.00 to $2.00 higher on steer and heifer beef; pork loins are $2.00 lower; and all pork carcasses are down $1.00.

This week's butter story reveals no startling changes---only a 1-cent drop in prices. Grade B(90 Score) is quoted at 73 cents per pound, Grade A (92 Score) at 82 cents per pound. Production is still low, while retail sales are on the downgrade -- about 1.5 per cent below last year. Sales on margarine are holding to a relatively high level.

On eggs, an improved demand has raised Grade "A" Mediums and Smalls 3 cents. Mediums are quoted at 57 to 58½ cents per dozen, Smalls at 51 to 52½ cents. Sales to retail outlets have been on the increase, but at the same time, production has been gaining and is now approximately 36 per cent larger than a year ago.

Poultry is plentiful enough for all needs. Prices have held practically unchanged this past week under an improved demand. Turkeys are higher, with young hens up 1-cent per pound alive and 3 cents higher dressed. Dressed toms are up 1 cent per pound.

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